Wayne Smith
12208 Candle Light Circle
Fort Washington, MD 20744

10/7/97

Dear Wayne,

Having heard nothing since my letter of a month or so ago relating to your idea for a Vanity Fair story by Ann Louise Bardack I assume you did not like it and did not pass it on, she did not like it, or Vanity Fair didn't. I had recommended instead of a rehash of what has been done before without much effect a story about a major, an unprecedented scandal in our history and that relating to what is inevitably a coup de'etat, intended or de facto.

I am aware of the Beschloss incomplete scholarhsip he finds profitable, The Johnson Tapes, and of the Newsweek condencsation, with key dates omitted.

Consistent with an appect of what I believe is a major scandal Newsweek altered entirely the meaning of what Russell told LBJ. I enclose that page of Newsweeek and the transcribed tape that I've had for months, both highlighted.

The obvious snd explicit fact is that Russell believe he had forced a modification in the language of the Report "to say that there was a difference in the Commission on that," the single-bullet myth.

This is only part of the scandal that I have fully documented, and it again suggests a knowing coup, with official agreement to cover it up. I am not up to going into all of that now. I was up at Hopkins yesterday for the regular cardiovascular check of the legs and the trip alone tires me excessively.

I have a news and magazine background but it is of so long ago I do not claim it relates to today's realities, but I do say that by traditional American concepts what I have in mind is important journalism that should, with attention given it, cause a strong reaction.

I did not phone Bardack because I avoid toll charges. My monthly medicine bills run from $750 up I want for neither me nor Hil to become a public charge.

The APs story inthe local papers was fairly honest as was the first radio treatment of the Beschloss, before daylight yesterday on CBS. After that the little I could take in was anti-Castro. With no dates given. From the records I have LBJ began by preaching a USSR conspiracy, his means of twisting Warren's arm to get him to do what Warren knew and said he should not do, take the job.

To the best of my knowledge LBJ got off on his irrational Castro kick as the result of the FBI's effort after the Eisenhower/CIA/ Mafia plot was exposed. It was not and Johnson knee it was not a JFK plot.

Best,

Harold

Harold Weisberg